Financial Fair play

**S**ince 1990, football clubs are more and more indebted and they continue as if nothing can happen to them. Indeed, at the end of the season 2009-2010, the global debt of first division football clubs was about 8,4 billions euros. Besides, just for this season, the debt increased by 1.6 billions (more) and 60% of clubs had a deficit without taking on board financial costs, players sale or purchase.

Moreover, the situation is serious and consequences such as clubs bankruptcy or players strike are to expect. Presently, the fact is that financial control depens on national authorities whereas the famous football tournament is european. This poses a problem of sports equity because most of the time, sports results are linked to salary spendings.



To change that, Michel Platini, the UEFA president, decided to create and ˮto imposeˮ a financial fair play with rules and sanctions. The UEFA objective is clear : to clean up clubs account and to assure stability in football. It means that clubs can’t spend more money than they earn.

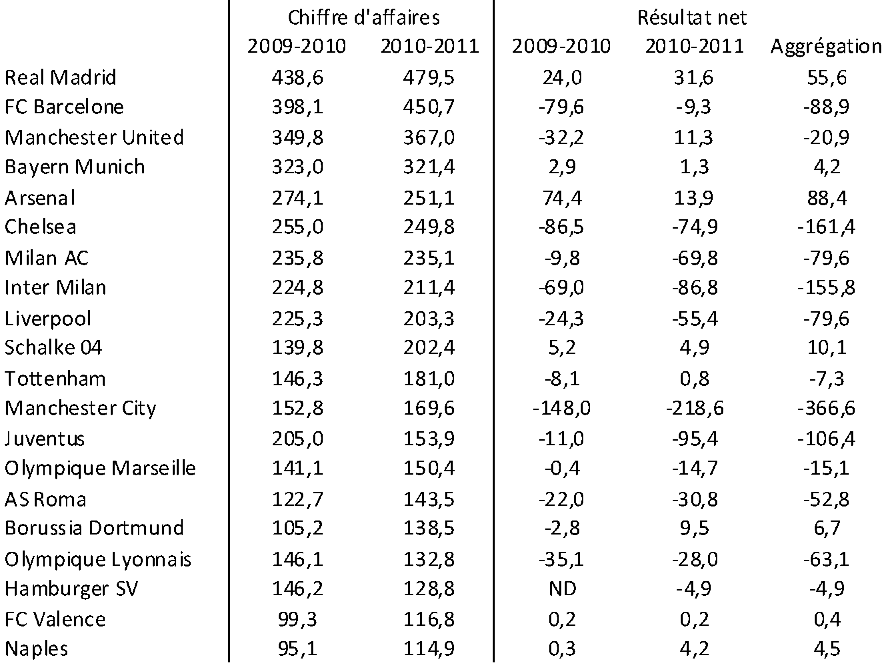
**What are exactly the financial fair play rules ?**

Since the 2013-2014 season, the access to european tournament will be determined by new rules. This commission leads by the ex-Belgium Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, has for aim to check the financial possibility of a club to continue its activity, the absence of negatives capital stocks, financial balance and absence of debts for others clubs, players or fisc. This analysis will start in 2013 and it will check the two early seasons in order to determine if clubs spendings don’t exceed 5 millions euros clubs earnings. Nevertheless, few clubs are so much in debt, such as Manchester City with a loss of 218.6 billions of euros in 2010, and they can’t respect this rules. To them, the goal is to have only a 45 millions euros of deficit and the insurance that shareholders will cover spendings excess. This aim will be reduced to 30 millions for season 2015 to 2018.

To punish clubs that don’t respect the rules, many sanctions were developped such as : less financial helps in Champions League and Europa League, clubs exclusion from european tournaments, a forbidding to align new players. First sanctions appeared for the season 2012-2013 and were applied this season (2013-2014). For example, Malaga was banned from the Europa League even if they finish the last season at the 4th place.

However, some limits appears in this project because of the popularity of clubs that don’t respect it. As example, if we make a simulation for the season 2012-2013 that just takes care of the 2 previous seasons, only 8 clubs are in law. For the ˮoutlawsˮ, nine of them exceed the 45 millions euros of deficit. Moreover, it is important to notice that the three worst clubs (Manchester City, Chelsea and Inter Milan) are leading by billionaires who can easily pay to reduce the deficit. The main impact of the financial fair play rules is to decrease

clubs funding by billionaires in order to reduce the gap between small and big clubs. Yet, those rules take care of football spendings and shareholders will find other ways to finance their club.



Those rules are applying to clubs that participate to european tournaments whereas european championships such as Greece, Romania, Poland … have the most important deficits. So it’s the role of national authorities to regulate the deficit and to apply the european laws to their own countries. France appears as a good student in this way.

To conclude, this project sets limits to respect if clubs don’t want sanctions. Nevertheless, it will be easy for billionaires to pass throw these rules to finance clubs. Moreover, those rules will be only applied at a european level whereas there are more important to a national level in all Europa.

Exchanges evolution

**I**n order to study the evolution of money in football in Europe, this article focus on the top 10 of exchanges in the last three years.

It is important to notice that more and more football clubs have petrol company as investors. Moreover, the economical crisis doesn’t exist in football, that’s why people have the autorisation/power to think that money becomes more important than the game in this sport. The sum of money spend for players now were phenomenal since 10 years.

 The first point is the increase of the total of exchanges each year. Indeed, it grows up year after year to achieve the half-billion of euros only for the first 10 exchanges. In a second time, it shows the increase of players’value.

How can they determine this cost for a football player ? And how can they pay for players knowing that most of clubs are in debt ?

The first answer, as explained before, is the investment of fuel companies in sport that gives millions of dollars each to make clubs famous. This investments change the image of the club and create a gap more and more considerable in each championship in Europe. That’s why, this clubs represent a majority of the thirty-two clubs qualified in Champions League.

The second answer is the importance of sponsoring contract. They are constantly growing up because more a club is famous more it has the power to negociate its contract time and its value.

Besides, because of its popularity, companies that want to be sponsors are numerous. This gives to club the choice for the best agreement.

 It is important to notice that the most football clubs in debt are the most famous clubs in Europe. But in spite of this, they spend billions of euros for exchanges each «mercato». We can explain this because of the money they earn each year by merchandising and sponsoring. Besides, banks have confidence in this clubs and there is a kind of freedom with the money they have or not.

Nevertheless, since few years, UEFA tries to change this mentality by requiring a financial fair-play.

This new « law » has for aim to reduce the gap between footbal clubs. But this appears as a arduous task to organize.

To conclude, even if clubs are more and more in debt, they’re continuing to spend money to buy players whose prices become unbelievable. Nevertheless, UEFA and countries try to change this mentality by defining « laws ».

The story of soccer

**M**ost of people think that soccer was created in United Kingdom because we used to think that rules of modern soccer were created in England and its popularity grown in England.

Yet, lots of derivative in history existed all around the world. Even if, they had not the same rules and some differences with the modern soccer, there were some resemblances.

 The first trace of it was close to 3,000 years ago, in Asia, in China. There was a game named “cuju”.

Players (2 to 10) had to shoot a little ball in to a circle. They were allowed to use any part of their body, except hands. Like modern soccer, fouls were sanctioned and the team lost one point per foul.

In the same period, another people on the other side of the world created a game close to soccer. Indeed, in Mesoamerica, players had to use their body (except hands and feed) in order to put a ball in a circle. The defeated team was killed as sacrifice. The name of this game was ballgame.

The most similar game was created by roman and greek. There were nearly the same rules but 27 players in each team. This sport was very famous.

The historian thinks this game moved in Europe 1000 years ago. With this move, the game began to look like modern soccer. Yet, it was very brutal with lots of injuries. That’s why, high classed people started to dislike soccer and it was banned in England in 1307. All people who played soccer went to jail but soccer continued to be famous in low class.

 As the soccer was banned, people couldn’t have opportunities to play together, and lots of variant rules existed. But on 8th of December 1863, an English man named Ebenezer Cobb Morley created the rules of modern soccer. Even if rules have evolved during the last centuries, we can considerate Ebenezer Cobb Morley as the rules’ creator of the most famous sport in the world.

 In few years, modern soccer became more and more famous in Europe, and in 1904, an international federation was founded : FIFA (Federation International of Football Association).

*Three actuals soccer players with pictures of Ebenezer Cobb Morley*

The same year, the first international game, outside England, took place in Paris, between France and England. The first international soccer tournament took place in Uruguay in 1930.

Today, modern soccer is everywhere, in each continent. This sport brings together millions of people.



Hooliganism

**S**ince its creation in England, soccer is associated to violence. Indeed, as the soccer was always played by the moneyless, it was considered like a violent sport, with lots of injuries. For some, mainly for fans, this spirit of violence is remained in parallel of the sport. Indeed, independently of the result of the game, some fans want to prove to the fans of other clubs that they are the best, on two points:

**Outside the stadium: Fight**

Before or after some matches, the fans of the two clubs give appointed in order to fight, and to see which club is the best. A ranking is updated after each fight and they know which clubs are the best. Famous English hooligans clubs are the club of the Head hunters of Chelsea, the club of West Ham, Tottenham…

This tradition was very famous in England in 80-90’s years, but we found some hooligans in lot of countries in Europe like France, Russia, Poland…

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Each hooligan has only one club, and this, for all the life. But association between clubs can existed, like the association between the Head hunter and the ultras of Rangers. Thus, the hooligans of Chelsea went to Rangers fight, and conversely.

 Since the beginning of the hooliganism in England, the hooligans were considerate like radical right extreme movement. For example, a large part of Head hunter’s members are members of the C18, an extremist and Nazi group.

**In the Stadium:**

We found also some violence in stadium all around Europe. For example, the using of smoke, fireworks and firecrackers is frequent~~ly~~ in stadium. Moreover, there is some violence in stadium with some fight between hooligans of two clubs, some incidents like throwing projectiles on the soccer’s field.

One of the best-known tragedies was the final of Champion’s league in 1985 in Heysel.

 Some Liverpool’s hooligans came in the rostrum of Juventus’ fans in order to fight and created a panic movement. It results 600 people injured and 39 died. This is the more serious accident caused by hooligans in stadium.



**Hooligan of today:**

Nowadays, the English government has stopped a large part of hooligans thanks to radical decisions like price increase, stadium prohibition and jail for hooligans… That’s why, lots of hooligans clubs were stopped, but hooligan is always present in England.

However, hooligans of France and some East countries are continuing their violence in stadium and outside. Thus, there are some injured each week-end, and sometimes, some died. For example, we can remember Brice TATON, a French fan, who was killed by Serbia hooligans.

Which player is the best striker in Champions League since its beginning?

- Lionel Messi

- Raul

- Cristiano Ronaldo

Which club won the first Champions League in 1955?

* Real Madrid
* Stade de Reims
* Manchester United

When was created the English football championship?

* 1888
* 1903
* 1932

How many times did Arsenal win the championship ?

* 10
* 13
* 3

Which player is the best striker ever in the english Championship ?

* Jimmy Greaves
* Alan Shearer
* Dixie Dean

Which country is the most decorated in FIFA World Cup ?

- Brazil

- Italy

- Germany

Which country never won the Women World Football Cup ?

- Japan

- France

- Norway

Which player is the best striker ever in FIFA World Cup ?

- Just Fontaine

- Miroslav Klose

- Ronaldo

